

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-16

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USIA-15 SAM-01 AID-20 OMB-01 EB-12 CIEP-03 TRSE-00

STR-08 CEA-02 ACDA-19 ORM-03 SR-02 MC-02 SCCT-02 CU-05

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R 021645Z OCT 74

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 594

DIA WASHDC

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USCINCEUR

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

USINT BAGHDAD UNN

S E C R E T SECTION 1 OF 3 BEIRUT 11970

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PINS, XF, LE

SUBJECT: SITUATION IN LEBANON

SUMMARY: ALTHOUGH LEBANON IS IN SORRY STATE BY  
AMERICAN STANDARDS, A NEW GOVERNMENT WILL CHANGE  
LITTLE AND COUNTRY WILL PROBABLY MUDDLE THROUGH AT LEAST

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UNTIL 1976. END SUMMARY.

1. DEMISE OF TAKIEDDINE SOLH GOVERNMENT PROMPTS US TO SUBMIT FOLLOWING EVALUATION OF ITS ACHIEVEMENTS OVER PAST 15 MONTHS, ALONG WITH ASSESSMENT OF CURRENT SITUATION IN LEBANON AND PROBLEMS IT CAN BE EXPECTED TO POSE FOR ANY SUCCESSOR GOVERNMENT. FULLER ANALYSIS WILL FOLLOW BY AIRGRAM.

2. RECORD OF SOLH GOVERNMENT: IN OUR LAST DETAILED REPORT ON SITUATION IN LEBANON (A-11 OF JAN 25), WE LISTED SOLH GOVERNMENT'S ACHIEVEMENTS AS DECIDELY MEAGER IN MOST ASPECTS OF LEBANON'S DOMESTIC AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS. ITS MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENT WAS TO SURVIVE WHILE AVOIDING OR POSTPONING DIFFICULT DECISIONS AS LONG AS POSSIBLE. OVER PAST EIGHT MONTHS OF ITS LIFE, IT CARRIED THIS APPROACH TO POINT OF ALMOST TOTAL INACTION.. THIS PASSIVITY, COUPLED WITH MODEST AMOUNT OF GOOD LUCK, ENABLED SOLH GOVERNMENT TO WITHSTAND THREATS OF DIRECT/OVERT ARAB ASSISTANCE TO FEDAYEEN IN LEBANON, BUT IT ALSO RULED OUT ANY EFFECTIVE PROGRESS IN BRINGING FEDAYEEN PRESENCE AND ACTIVITIES IN LEBANON UNDER GREATER GOL CONTROL. INTERNALLY, WITH EXCEPTION OF PASSAGE OF BILL INCREASNG PENSIONS FOR MINISTERS AND EPUTIES, AND A SLIGHT BUT HIGHLY CONTROVERSIAL LURCH IN DIRECTION OF CIVIL SERVICE REFORM (OUR A-39 OF MAR 4), SOLH GOVERNMENT CAN JUSTLY CLAIM TO HAVE MADE NO POSITIVE ACHIEVEMENTS--WHETHER BY LEGISLATIVE ACTION, EXECUTIVE DECREE, OR ADMINISTRATIVE FIAT--SINCE BEGINNING OF 1974. IN SHORT, IT MANAGED TO MAKE ITS ALREADY NOTORIOUS REPUTATION FOR "DO-NOTHINGNESS" EVEN MORE DESERVED THAN BEFORE.

3. PRES. FRANGIE'S ORIGINAL REPUTATION AS TOUGH, NON-SENSE DECISION-MAKER AND ADVOCATE OF LAW AND ORDER SUFFERED BADLY DURING LIFE OF SOLH CABINET. HIS RELUCTANCE USE HIS POTENTIAL POWER TO OVERCOME PARLIAMENTARY AND CABINET INERTIA IN MAKING CONTROVERSIAL DECISIONS BECAME INCREASINGLY PRONOUNCED, AND HE SHOWED HIMSELF MORE AND MORE PREOCCUPIED WITH PETTY FAMILY AND POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS IN HIS ZGHORTAN HOMETOWN THAN

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WITH NATIONAL AFFAIRS. RESULT HAS BEEN SWELLING UP-SURGE IN PUBLIC CRITICISM DIRECTED AT FRANGIE'S PERSON AND FAMILY, WHICH CAUSED HIM PERIODICALLY TO HIT BACK AT HIS DETRACTORS IN VARIETY OF WAYS--INCLUDING USE OF GOL ADMINISTRATIVE AND POLIE APPARATUS TO HARRASS AND INTIMIDATE HIS ADVERSARIES (AND, IN SO DOING, ALSO FOREIGN BUSINESSMEN).

4. FIFTEEN MONTHS OF GOVERNMENTAL INERTIA AND CONTINUING PARLIAMENTARY SOMNOLENCE HAVE NOT FAILED TO EXACERBATE LEBANON'S INCREASINGLY ACUTE ECONOMIC, FINANCIAL AND SOCIAL PROBLEMS, THEREBY CONTRIBUTING GREATLY TO PUBLIC UNCERTAINTY AND UNREST OVER DIRECTION IN WHICH COUNTRY APPEARS TO BE HEADING. WHILE BEITUN CONTINUES TO BE BOOM-TOWN WITH LAND VALUES SKYROCKETING AND MODERN BUILDINGS GOING UP LIKE MUSHROOMS, LEBANON'S BASIC ECONOMIC PROBLEMS (E.G., INFLATION, POLLUTION, INCREASED COST OF LIVING, PRESSING DEVELOPMENTAL NEEDS IN SOUTH AND ELSEWHERE, ETC.) ARE STILL NOT BEING FACED, AND ITS MYRIAD SOCIAL PROBLEMS (E.G., LACK OF ADEQUATE SOCIAL SECURITY AND PUBLIC HOUSING) ARE BEING IGNORED ALMOST IN TOTAL. WHILE WE HEAR MORE AND MORE TALK OF THE RICH GETTING RICHER AND THE POOR GETTING NO RELIEF, NOTHING IS BEING DONE TO CHANGE THIS OR TO COMBAT EVER-INCREASING CORRUPTION THAT PREVAILS (ESPECIALLY AT HIGHEST LEVELS IN THE CAPITAL), REPORTS OF MAJOR SCANDALS (E.G., IN TOBACCO AUTHORITY AND BEIRUT PORT AND MUNICIPALITY) INVOLVING TOP GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS, ALTHOUGH NOT UNCOMMON IN LEBANON, HAVE CONTRIBUTED TO EROSION OF CONFIDENCE IN COUNTRY'S HITHERTO SACROSANCT FINANCIAL-ECONOMIC "ESTABLISHMENT". IN ADDITION, ONLY 11.8 PERCENT OF GOL REVENUE COMES FROM INCOME TAX, BUT NO ONE APPARENTLY DARES--LEAST OF ALL THE GOL--TO ENFORCE OBSERVANCE OF EXISTING TAX LAWS BY WELL-TO-DO AND USE THAT REVENUE TO IMPROVE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS GENERALLY.

5. ANOTHER AREA WHICH HAS LATELY POINTED UP GOL'S INCAPACITY TO GOVERN IS INTERNAL SECURITY SECTOR. RELATIONS BETWEEN GOL AND FEDAYEEN REMAIN MUCH AS THEY WERE AT BEGINNING OF 1974, WITH BOTH SIDES REMAINING

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WARY OF EACH OTHER BUT WITH THEIR RESPONSIBLE LEADERS STILL ANXIOUS TO AVOID A REPETITION (OR WORSE) OF CONFRONTATION WHICH OCCURRED IN MAY 1973. AT SAME TIME, HOWEVER, FEDAYEEN "STATE WITHIN A STATE" HAS CONTINUOUSLY IMPROVED ITS MILITARY CAPABILITY VIS-A-VIS

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S E C R E T SECTION 2 OF 3 BEIRUT 11970

LEBANESE ARMY WITH CONSTANT CLANDESTINE IMPORTATION  
OF ARMS FROM SYRIA (INCLUDING SA-7 MISSILES TO  
HAMPER LAF AIR ATTACKS), CONSTRUCTION OF NEW BUNKERS AND  
OTHER DEFENSIVE WORKS WITHIN REFUGEE CAMPS. ALTHOUGH  
EFFORTS HAVE ALSO BEEN MADE BY GOL TO INCREASE LEBANESE  
ARMY'S STRENGTH OVER PAST 15 MONTHS, NO SIGNIFICANT  
PROGRESS HAS BEEN REALIZED SO FAR DUE TO PARLIAMENTARY  
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INERTIA. IN ANY EVENT, MINDFUL OF ITS PROVEN INABILITY  
TO CONFRONT FEDAYEEN SUCCESSFULLY, GOL LEADERSHIP  
REMAINS UNWILLING RISK INCURRING HEAVY HUMAN AND  
ECONOMIC LOSSES AND PLACING SEVERE INTERNAL STRAINS ON

LEBANESE BODY POLITIC THAT A RENEWED CONFRONTATION WITH FEDAYEEN WOULD ALMOST CERTAINLY ENTAIL. (IN MEANTIME, MOST LEBANESE CONTINUE TO VIEW PALESTINIAN PROBLEM AS THE MAJOR THREAT TO LEBANON'S FUTURE SECURITY. WHILE SOME ARE CAUTIOUSLY OPTIMISTIC THAT EXTERNAL FORCES MAY PRODUCE SOME KIND OF SOLUTION, MOST QUESTION HOW THIS WOULD AFFECT PALESTINIANS RESIDING IN LEBANON AND HOW LATTER COULD BE INDUCED RETURN TO WHATEVER FORM OF PALESTINIAN "ENTITY" MIGHT EMERGE FROM CURRENT SETTLEMENT EFFORT. WHILE MOST CONCERN IS CENTERED IN CHRISTIAN QUARTERS, EVEN MANY MOSLEMS ARE PESSIMISTIC, FOR THEY SEE CONTINUED PRESENCE OF NEARLY 350,000 PALESTINIANS IN THIS COUNTRY AS THREAT TO MULTI-CONFESSIONAL BALANCE AND CONTINUED EXISTENCE OF LEBANON AS THEY KNOW IT.)

6. TO MAKE MATTERS WORSE, GOL'S APATHY AND/OR HELPLESSNESS- ACCOMPANIED BY UNPRECEDENTED SOCIO-ECONOMIC MALAISE MENTIONED ABOVE, PLUS STUDENT UNREST AND LABOR AGITATION (SEE BELOW)--HAVE CONTRIBUTED TO RISING TIDE OF OUTRIGHT LAWLESSNESS. PUBLIC THUGGERY--INCLUDING SHOOTINGS, KIDNAPPINGS, MUGGINGS, ROADBLOCKS, AND INTIMIDATIONS CARRIED OUT BY VARIETY OF SCOFFLAW "ARMED ELEMENTS" (NOT ALL OF THEM PALESTINIANS, BY ANY MEANS)--HAS REACHED PROPORTIONS UNACCEPTABLE EVEN TO EASY-GOING LEBANESE. THERE HAS ALSO BEEN MARKED INCREASE IN EFFORTS BY VARIOUS FOREIGN GOVERNMENTS (PARTICULARLY IRAQ AND LIBYA) TO FOMENT ALL SORTS OF DOMESTIC TURMOIL THROUGH PRESS INCITEMENT, PROPAGANDA WARS, STREET AGITATION, AND USE OF HIRED ASSASSINS OR BULLIES TO COMBAT THEIR REAL OR IMAGINED OPPONENTS HERE. AT SAME TIME, INCIDENCE OF LETHAL FEUDS AND BRAWLS AMONG CONFESSIONAL, FAMILY AND TRIBAL "MILITIA" GROUPS HAS RISEN. 'CHRISTIAN CONCERN, IN PARTICULAR, OVER MOSLEM "THREAT" IN AFTERMATH OF EVENTS IN CYPRUS HAS LENT IMPETUS TO ENLARGING CHRISTIAN "MILITIA" GROUPS AND INCREASES IN THEIR ARMAMENTS, ALBEIT LIGHT.) TENDENCY OF MANY LEBANESE  
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TO RESORT TO INDISCRIMINATE USE OF FIREARMS TO MARK PUBLIC AND PRIVATE CELEBRATIONS HAS ALSO INCREASED AT GALLOPING PACE, TO POINT WHERE SOLH GOVERNMENT'S PRONOUNCEMENTS RE ENSURING CIVIL ORDER WERE BEING GREETED WITH OPEN RIDICULE. THIS FACTOR APPEARS TO HAVE PLAYED A MAJOR ROLE IN FORMING GENERAL CONSENSUS THAT SOLH GOVERNMENT HAD OUTLIVED ANY USEFULNESS IT MIGHT ONCE HAVE ENJOYED IN BINDING UP INTER-CONFESSIONAL AND LEBANESE-PALESTINIAN WOUNDS INFLICTED DURING TRAUMATIC DISTURBANCES OF MAY-JUNE 1973.

7. IN INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS, SOLH GOVERNMENT CONTINUED TRADITIONAL LEBANESE POLICY OF DOING NOTHING TO JEOPARDIZE ITS IMAGE AS AN ARAB STATE IN GOOD STANDING. SOME FURTHER IMPROVEMENT WAS MADE IN RELATIONS WITH SYRIA OVER PAST EIGHT MONTHS, BUT FONOFF DECISION-MAKING HAS BEEN REDUCED TO LOWEST-COMMON DENOMINATOR IN ORDER TO ENSURE THAT GOL AVOIDED "TROUBLE" AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE. (WHILE SOLH CABINET THUS ABDICATED ANY MORE FORCEFUL ROLE IT MIGHT HAVE PLAYED IN REGIONAL AFFAIRS, GOL HAS IN PRIVATE HEARTILY ENDORSED SECRETARY KISSINGER'S EFFORTS AIMED AT ME SETTLEMENT.) WHILE SOLH AND HIS JUNKETING FOREIGN MINISTER CONTINUED THEIR PEREGRINATIONS THROUGHOUT ARAB WORLD AND ELSEWHERE, FONOFF HANDLED ONLY MOST ROUTINE MATTERS AND ACCURATELY REFLECTED GOVERNMENT'S DO-NOTHING POSITION. IT EVEN PROVED IMPOSSIBLE TO SELECT A NEW FONOFF SECRETARY GENERAL. ALTHOUGH CURRENT LEBANESE AMBASSADOR TO BONN TOLD US HE HAD BEEN OFFERED AND ACCEPTED SECGEN POSITION, IT NOW APPEARS THAT ACTING SECGEN FATTAL WILL CONTINUE EXERCISING INTERIM FUNCTIONS.

8. ON LABOR SCENE, CONFEDERATION OF LEBANESE LABOR (CLL), WHICH HAD WRUNG FAR MORE MATERIAL CONCESSIONS FROM SOLH GOVERNMENT THAN FROM ANY PREVIOUS GOVERNMENT, STOOD BY PASSIVELY WHILE SOLH CABINET UNRAVELLED AND FINALLY COLLAPSED. HOWEVER, THERE ARE DEFINITE SIGNS THAT WITH UNFULFILLED POPULAR EXPECTATIONS RISING AND LEFTIST ACTIVITY FLOURISHING, LABOR DEMANDS WILL BE FACTOR ATTRACTING INCREASED ATTENTION IN MONTHS TO COME. INTERESTINGLY ENOUGH, LABOR IS THE ONE ELEMENT  
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ON LEBANESE SCENE NOT BASED ON CONFESSIONAL LINES, AND IT COULD WELL BECOME SPRINGBOARD FROM WHICH FUTURE LEADERS WILL EMERGE TO REFORM (OR DESTROY) LEBANON'S TRADITIONAL SOCIAL-POLITICAL STRUCTURE. IN ANY EVENT, CLL CAN BE EXPECTED TO AGITATE FIERCELY FOR FURTHER ECONOMIC AND EVEN POLITICAL CONCESSION FROM GOL IN MONTHS AHEAD.

9. SOLH GOVERNMENT WAS FACED LAST SPRING WITH CONSIDERABLE STUDENT UNREST CENTERED PRINCIPALLY AT AUB, BUT WITH RAMIFICATIONS THROUGHOUT ENTIRE LOCAL UNIVERSITY COMMUNITY. ALTHOUGH THERE IS REASON TO HOPE THAT FURTHER SERIOUS STUDENT STRIKES OR DISORDERS CAN BE AVOIDED THIS FALL, POSSIBILITY THAT THEY MAY RECUR IS GIVING GREAT CONCERN TO MOST ELEMENTS OF LEBANESE "ESTABLISHMENTS". BASIC CAUSES WOULD APPEAR REFLECT GENERAL STUDENT RESTLESSNESS THAT WE HAVE WITNESSED WORLD-WIDE. THEY ARE AGGRAVATED IN LEBANON, HOWEVER, BY STUDENT GRIEVANCES AGAINST DO-

NOTHING GOVERNMENT, BY ORGANIZED (AND FREQUENTLY  
SUBSIDIZED) PALESTINIAN AGITATION, AND BY THEIR FEELING  
OF BEING LOST IN A LEADERLESS SOCIETY. MAJORITY OF  
LEBANESE YOUTH IS ANTAGONISTIC TO TRADITIONAL LEBANESE  
SOCIO-CONFESSIONAL STRUCTURE AND IS SEEKING NEW OUTLETS  
FOR THEIR ENERGIES. MANY REJECT SOCIAL RESTRAINTS  
DEEMED ESSENTIAL BY OLDER GENERATIONS. MULTI-RELIGIOUS

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FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 596

DIA WASHDC

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

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MARRIAGES AMONG THE ELITE, ANATHEMA TO MOST OF THEIR  
ELDERS, ARE OCCURRING AT EVER-INCREASING RATE, AND MANY

PARENTS ARE INCAPABLE OF UNDERSTANDING IDEALS ESPOUSED BY THEIR OFFSPRING.

10. ONE NEW ELEMENT THAT HAS APPEARED ON LOCAL SCENE IS CHARISMATIC SHIITE IMAM USA AS SADR, WHO HAS TURNED LONG-IGNORED SHI'S GRIEVANCES INTO A POLITICAL FORCE TO BE RECKONED WITH AND WHO IS BEING WOODED ASSIDUOUSLY BY ALL  
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NON-SUNNI ELEMENTS. BACKED BY SYRIAN WEAPONS, MONEY AND INFLUENCE, AND ENJOYING DEGREE OF FINANCIAL SUPPORT FROM SAUDI ARABIA AND GULF STATES, IMAM HAS BECOME NOT ONLY HIS PEOPLE'S MOST POPULAR LEADER, BUT ALSO SPOKESMAN ON BEHALF OF LEBANON'S UNDERPRIVILEGED MAJORITY AGAINST ITS AFFLUENT MINORITY REGARDLESS OF RELIGIOUS AFFILIATION. IT STILL TOO EARLY TO SAY PRECISELY IN WHAT DIRECTION HIS CURRENT PROTEST CAMPAIGN WILL TAKE HIM, BUT HE WILL CERTAINLY MAKE BID TO SUPPLANT EXISTING FEUDAL SHIITE POLITICAL LEADERSHIP HEADED BY PARLIAMENTARY SPEAKER KAMEL AL ASSAD. IMAM'S SOCIAL CONSCIOUSNESS APPARENTLY HAS NOT YET LED HIM TO ESPOUSE FAR-OUT LEFTIST CAUSES, BUT HIS CRITICISM OF FOL INERTIA HAS LED HIM TO BE VIEWED BY MANY "ESTABLISHMENT" ELEMENTS AS A LEFTIST THREAT TO THE EXISTING SYSTEM.

1. GOVERNMENTAL/POLITICAL OUTLOOK: AT THIS WRITING, LEBANON HAS NO GOVERNMENT. HOW LONG THIS SITUATION WILL CONTINUE NO ONE REALLY KNOWS, ALTHOUGH IF CABINET CRISIS IS NOT RESOLVED WITHIN NEXT FORTNIGHT IT WILL PROBABLY BECOME PROLONGED. IN ANY EVENT, WE THINK THAT PROSPECTS FOR ANY FUTURE LEBANESE GOVERNMENT TO COPE WITH PROBLEMS OUTLINED ABOVE, OR EVEN TO IMPROVE APPRECIABLY ON ABSYMAL RECORD OF SOLH CABINET, ARE NOT BRIGHT, GIVEN (A) ABSENCE OF LEADERSHIP OR EVEN ELEMENTARY GUIDANCE ON PART OF PRES. FRANGIE; (B) INGRAINED TENDENCY OF COUNTRY'S "TRADITIONAL" POLITICIANS--BOTH IN AND OUT OF POWER--TO PURSUE PERSONAL GOALS AT EXPENSE OF NATIONAL OBJECTIVES; (C) TOTAL INCAPACITY OF PARLIAMENT TO RESPOND TO EVEN THE MOST PRESSING PUBLIC DEMANDS; AND (D) DEMONSTRATED INABILITY OF LEBANESE SYSTEM TO REFORM ITSELF FROM WITHIN. THUS NO POLITICAL ELEMENT REALLY WANTS A STRONG, ERGO EFFECTIVE GOVERNMENT. IN ADDITION, AS TIME DRAWS NEARER FOR PARLIAMENTARY AND PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS IN 1976, ONE CAN EXPECT FURTHER EROSION OF GOL'S INABILITY TO GOVERN AS POLITICIANS OF ALL STRIPES JOSTLE AND MANEUVER IN ANTICIPATION OF FUTURE PRESIDENTIAL/PARLIAMENTARY POSSIBILITIES.

12. IN MOST COUNTRIES, FOREGOING GLOOMY PICTURE WOULD LEAD ONE TO ANTICIPATE MAJOR POLITICO-SOCIAL UPHEAVALS. ALTHOUGH SUCH CONVULSIONS COULD OCCUR IN LEBANON AT SOME



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FUTURE DATE, WE BELIEVE THAT LEBANESE SYSTEM WILL  
SOMEHOW CONTINUE TO MUDDLE THROUGH FOR NEXT FEW YEARS--  
AT LEAST UNTIL PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION IN 1976. BASIC REASON  
FOR THIS BELIEF IS LACK OF ALTERNATIVES AAD COUNTRY'S  
DELICATE BALANCE ALONG CONFESSIONAL AND ECONOMIC LINES.  
NONE OF THE MAJOR FORCES CURRENTLY COMPETING IN LEBANON  
YET SEES ANY ADVANTAGE IN DESTROYING EXISTING SYSTEM WITHOUT  
RUNNING SERIOUS RISK OF HAVING ITS OWN POSITION SUFFERING AS  
RESULT. CRITICISM OF THE SYSTEM WILL UNDOUBTEDLY INCREASE,  
BUT NO ONE IS ABLE TO OFFER ANY WORKABLESUBSTITUTE.  
(WORTH NOTING THAT WITH POSSIBLE EXCEPTION OF "SOCIALIST"  
KAMAL JUMBLATT, NOT A SINGLE LEADING POLITICAL FIGURE OR  
GROUP IN LEBANON TODAY HAS DEVISED ANY COHERENT PROGRAM TO  
ALLEVIATE SITUATION DESCRIBED ABOVE, NOR DOES ANYONE APPEAR  
TO BE THINKING AHEAD RE POSSIBLE PROGRAMS FOR FUTURE.) CHECKS  
AND BALANCES WHICH HAVE TRADITIONALLY CHARACTERIZED LEBANON'S  
PECULIAR "HOUSE-OF-CARDS" STRUCTURE ARE SO DELICATE THAT  
MOST LEBANESE REALIZE ANY ATTEMPT TO TINKER WITH PART OF  
THAT STRUCTURE WOULD BRING WHOLE SYSTEM TUMBLING DOWN.

13. THUS, WHILE RECENT PRESS REPORTS, SUCH AS WRITTEN  
BY JONATHAN RANDALL AND OTHERS, GIVE ESSENTIALLY ACCURATE  
DESCRIPTION OF CONDITIONS IN LEBANON, IT OUR OPINION  
THAT IN ABSENCE OF SOME HIGHLY EXTRAORDINARY ACCIDENT  
OR UNFORESEEN DEVELOPMENT, WE WILL NOT SOON SEE A MAJOR  
CHANGE IN THIS COUNTRYM ITS STRUCTURE IS FRAGILE, BUT  
REALIZATION THAT FRAGILITY BY MOST LEBANESE WILL ENABLE  
LEBANON TO MUDDLE THROUGH FOR SOME TIME TO COME.  
GODLEY

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**Subject:** SITUATION IN LEBANON SUMMARY: ALTHOUGH LEBANON IS IN SORRY STATE BY  
**TAGS:** PINT, PINS, XF, LE  
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